

During the 42 years of PERB's operation, thousands of documents have been accumulated recording the history of the agency. PERB serves as a guardian of contracts, grievances, interest arbitrations and fact finding awards. In saving those items, technology has changed from an era of saving paper documents by film to the use of computers. While PERB no longer saves materials by film, we still preserve and maintain many public records from those earlier days.

In 2015, PERB decided to join many other agencies in transferring from film to computer images. This both protects the film from long term decay and produces a brighter image for the user. While the public record item is the same, it will preserve better than if we continued to rely on technology from the eight track tape, cassette and floppy disk eras.

On the front page of this website is the PERB searchable database link for Microsearch. This currently contains many recent agency activities and this is where we continue to add new documents as they are completed. Now, we are in the process of adding items that were previously only available only by microfiche film to that collection. If you are looking for archived fact finding awards or interest arbitration rulings, they have been (or soon will be) added to Microsearch. We will be completing this conversion process later this summer.

While all documents are converted from film to imagery form, some documents will not be placed on the public viewable search. As an example, some early government documents asked for social security numbers to be placed on the form for identification. Clearly, that would not be appropriate for public distribution. If you are interested in past grievances, do contact our staff to work with that request as they will not be placed on Microsearch. In the case of contracts, they are not being placed on Microsearch due to the enormous capacity that would be needed to do so and the relative lack of requests for those. However, they are available and we would be glad to work with you to provide copies of those upon request.

Otherwise, it continues to be the goal of PERB to be an open and transparent agency. That was a major goal in converting microfiche material to a more modern format. This conversion, when completed, will allow greater access to more documents at PERB than ever before. This will be more convenient for Iowans and certainly protects important material for years to come. We are glad to share this news with you and are working hard to complete this transfer soon. As always, please contact us with any questions or comments you have on this or any other topic.

Now, if anyone is interested in a piece of PERB history, we will be placing a vintage microfiche reader on govdeals.com for public bidding in the near future...